

Interpretive Programs And Other Park Events!

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



Large Flowering Trillium

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

April Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Friday April 4

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!!

After a five year hiatus, it's back! Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Wednesday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. ***This week's topic: Earthworms!***

Saturday April 5

8am-1pm 12th Annual Native Plant Sale!

Join the Friends of Indiana Dunes as the 12th Annual Native Plant Sale takes place all morning in the State Park Pavilion. Over 120 species of hard to find native plants will be on sale that day. Come early, before they're gone. More info can be found at www.friendsofindianadunes.org, or call the Nature Center.

10am Sounds of Spring! Strap on your hiking shoes as we explore the sights and sounds of the spring forest. Meet at the Nature Center and bring your eyes and ears! Join us! DG

2pm Wildflower Walk. Join us at the Nature Center for a easy stroll looking at the native wildflowers that are up and flowering. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

Sunday April 6

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Princes and Pollywogs. Explore the fascinating process of a tadpole becoming a frog. We'll start in the Nature Center Auditorium, and then head out on the trail into the marsh to search out the early spring frogs. Great family fun! DG

Friday April 11

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!!

Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Wednesday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. ***This week's topic: Frogs!***



Saturday April 12

10am Birding Mt. Tom. With bird migration under way, what better place to watch migrating birds than on top of Mt. Tom? Meet at the Nature Center and enjoy a moderate hike to our highest dune for a look at our migrating feathered friends. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

2pm Scavenger Hunt! Explore the new world of the high tech scavenger hunt! Tag along as we show you how to use a GPS and find some secret caches in the park, in the new hobby of geocaching. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 minute hunt. Prizes for the kids. DG

Sunday April 13

10am Spring Wetlands Walk. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for a fresh air stroll into the dune wetlands. Watch spring frogs, flowering plants, and other natural sights along the way. DG

2pm Severe Weather and You! Flood into the Nature Center Auditorium for a special presentation from Rob Stormer, severe weather spotter and storm chaser, as he shows tips and tools for the severe weather season, and explains some of the local weather phenomena that we experience along Lake Michigan. Seating first come, first serve. Be prepared!

Friday April 18

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!! Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Wednesday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. ***This week's topic: Ladybugs!***



Saturday April 19

Visit the Dunes Staff at the Northwest Indiana Earth Day festivities at Sunset Hills County Park Today!

10:00am Earth Day Hike. Come and enjoy Earth Day with a naturalist. Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll through the dune woodlands. Enjoy wildflowers, birds, and other sights today. We'll also bring a garbage bag to do our good on this green day! Strap on the hiking shoes and join us! BB

2pm Scatology! Scatology is the study of what!?... Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium as we give you the scoop on animal poop, and how to identify it! Prizes for those that know their turds! Fantastic family fun! BB

Sunday April 20

9:30am Breakfast with the Birds. Join us for our monthly free coffee and donuts as we discuss the newly arrived spring birds. Meet in the Nature Center bird observation room for some casual bird talk, followed by a short, optional hike afterwards for those that are interested. BB

2pm Litter We Know. How does the litter you see affect wildlife? Help a naturalist answer this question. Meet in the Nature Center for this 45 minute discussion. DG

Friday April 25

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!! Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Wednesday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. ***This week's topic: Flowers!***

Saturday April 26

10am Wire Wrapping Workshop. It's the first Friends of Indiana Dunes field course of the year. Registration is required for this workshop where participants will learn stone wire wrapping for pendants and other jewelry. Registration is required and the fee is \$15.00 payable the day of the workshop. Program meets in the Nature Center and is limited to the first 15 participants. Register now at (219) 926-1390.

2pm Just a Few Furs. Examine animal skulls and furs and help us explore how the Indiana Dunes' mammals tough out the winter. Meet in the (heated) Nature Center Auditorium. Join us! DG

Sunday April 27

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Garlic Mustard Massacre. Join the Indiana Dunes State Park as we promote "Healthy Parks, Healthy People". Meet at the Nature Center for a short stroll exploring the plant life of the dunes. We'll also be stopping to eliminate the invasive plant garlic mustard along the way. It's a great way to get in shape and help the park stay healthy. We'll be out for about an hour. DG

Reserve a special hike or program for your group!

Naturalists have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive naturalist service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center is now scheduling spring field trips! Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390

Spring Birdathon to Benefit Indiana Dunes!



For the first time, our intrepid team from the Indiana DNR will be setting out to record our goal of 140 species to raise money for the Friends of Indiana Dunes. On Saturday, May 17th our team will be starting at 2:30am for owls, whippoorwills, and nighthawks, and race towards the finish line by 7pm, picking up raptors, shorebirds, and warblers along the way.

How can you help raise money for the Friends of Indiana Dunes? It's easy. Simply fill out a pledge form found here in the Nature Center and send it back by May 14th (do it today, while it is on your mind!). Last year, some teams saw between 85 and 160 species of birds. If you had pledged a dime for 100 species, you would have 10.00...you get the idea! If you want to challenge our team with an extra \$5.00 for a specific bird, maybe your favorite rare bird, please do so. This is a fun way to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

The full list of birds will be sent to all that pledge, and allow us to set some goals for next year. Also, your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.